

Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, IS, EG, US

SUBJECT:PROPOSED LONDON FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

REF: CAIRO 15733

1. YOU SHOULD INFORM SADAT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS
ASKED YOU TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING TO HIM IN RESPONSE TO
SADAT'S COMMENTS TO YOU IN YOUR SATURDAY MEETING:

--THE PRESIDENT HAS CONSIDERED CAREFULLY PRESIDENT SADAT'S
SUGGESTION THAT THERE BE A MEETING BETWEEN HIM AND
PRESIDENT SADAT IN EUROPE BEFORE ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION
TO RESUME EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS THROUGH A MEETING OF
FOREIGN MINISTERS WITH SECRETARY VANCE. THE PRESIDENT
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APPRECIATES PRESIDENT SADAT'S BASICALLY POSITIVE ATTITUDE
TOWARD OUR PROPOSED SCENARIO WHICH WOULD BEGIN WITH SUCH
A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, AND HE UNDERSTANDS THE
CONCERNS WHICH LED PRESIDENT SADAT TO SUGGEST THAT THIS
BE PRECEDED BY A MEETING BETWEEN THEM.

--PRESIDENT CARTER IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT SO LONG A

DELAY BEFORE ANYTHING FURTHER HAPPENS WITH RESPECT TO
MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS WOULD LOSE VALUABLE TIME,
DURING WHICH PRESSURE WOULD CONTINUE TO BUILD UP AGAINST

ANY RESUMPTION OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATING PROCESS
AND ACTIVE U.S. ROLE IN THAT PROCESS.

--PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO STAY WITH
THE SCENARIO AMBASSADOR EILTS HAS DESCRIBED TO PRESIDENT
SADAT, LOOKING TOWARD AN ANNOUNCEMENT THIS WEEK OF
LONDON TALKS AT HIS (PRESIDENT CARTER'S) INVITATION
ON JULY 11-12.

--THE PRESIDENT WANTS PRESIDENT SADAT TO KNOW THAT HE IS
REMAINING PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN ALL THE DETAILS OF OUR
MIDDLE EAST STRATEGY. HE CONTINUES TO HAVE FULLY IN
MIND AND TO STAND BY THE UNDERSTANDINGS DISCUSSED WITH
PRESIDENT SADAT AT CAMP DAVID. HE CAN UNDERSTAND
THE IMPORTANCE PRESIDENT SADAT ATTACHES TO HAVING A FULL
UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. POSITION AS WE MOVE INTO THE
FORTHCOMING CRUCIAL PHASE IN THE WEEKS AHEAD. THIS WOULD
BE A PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE CONTEMPLATED VISIT TO THE
AREA LATER IN JULY OF SECRETARY VANCE AND AMBASSADOR
ATHERTON, WHO ARE FULLY CONVERSANT WITH PRESIDENT
CARTER'S THINKING AND WILL REMAIN IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH
HIM.

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2. FYI. THERE ARE ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH
LEAD US TO CONCLUDE THAT WE SHOULD NOT SEEK TO ARRANGE
MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS IN EUROPE AND WHICH
YOU SHOULD HAVE IN MIND FOR USE IN YOUR DISCRETION IN
ELABORATING ON ABOVE MESSAGE WHICH YOU ARE DELIVERING
IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S NAME. IF THE PRESIDENT WERE TO
MEET WITH SADAT, THIS WOULD INEVITABLY CREATE PUBLIC
PERCEPTION THAT WE WERE NOT BEING EVENHANDED IN OUR
DEALINGS WITH THE TWO PARTIES AND THAT WE WERE WORKING
CLOSELY WITH SADAT, TO ISRAEL'S DISADVANTAGE, IN
DEVELOPING AND CARRYING OUT OUR MIDDLE EAST PEACE-
MAKING ROLE. THERE WOULD INEVITABLY BE PRESSURES
FOR A COMPARABLE MEETING WITH BEGIN. NET RESULT WOULD
BE TO ENGAGE THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY AND PREMATURELY--
AN ENGAGEMENT WHICH WE BELIEVE IT IS BETTER TO KEEP IN
RESERVE FOR CRITICAL MOMENTS FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD. THERE
IS THE ADDITIONAL PRACTICAL CONSIDERATION THAT THE
PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE IN EUROPE AND HIS NEED TO RETURN
IMMEDIATELY TO WASHINGTON AFTER THE SUMMIT WOULD MAKE
IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO MAKE THE TIME FOR THE KIND OF
MEETING PRESIDENT SADAT HAS SUGGESTED. PRESIDENT

CARTER HAS ALREADY HAD TO DECLINE INVITATIONS FOR OTHER
MEETINGS WHILE HE IS IN EUROPE. END FYI. VANCE

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